

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is in response to the Office Action mailed January 16, 2004. Claims 66-73 and 75-85 were allowed. Claim 74 was rejected, and is cancelled herein to expedite prosecution and without prejudice to pursue that claim in a related case. Additionally, dependent claims 86-96 have been added without the addition of new matter.

Support for the dependent claims 86-96 can be found in the case as filed as follows.

With regard to claim 86, the router shown in Fig. 2 number 52, connection is number 63, 59, 60, 61, 62, 72, 73.

With regard to claim 87, the fabric control module containing processor and memory is shown in Fig. 2 number 54 and Fig. 3. Also in Column, 10 lines 25-49. Note that in Column 10 line 42, the “in-band 80” wording should be “in-band 90”. There is not 80 connection in any of the diagrams.

With regard to claim 88, see column 10, lines 27-29.

With regard to claim 89, see Fig. 2 numbers 55 (protocol conversion module is also termed the bridge module). See also Fig. 7 for protocol conversion/bridge/brouer module diagram.

With regard to claim 90, see Fig. 7.

With regard to claim 91, see Fig. 29. The HUB ASICs are Port Bypass Circuits, see Column 24 line 52 to Column 25 line 20

With regard to claim 92, see Column 25 lines 6-10.

With regard to claim 93, see Column 24 line 66 to Column 25 line 4.

With regard to claim 94, see Fig. 10 numbers 262, 263, 264, 265, 266.

With regard to claim 95, see Fig. 4 number 123 for router to connectivity apparatus connection.

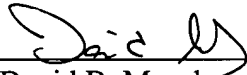
With regard to claim 96, see Fig. 4 numbers 133, 139 and Fig. 34.

Applicant requests that the undersigned be contacted if any issues remain as to the patentability of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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